

following response to the last Office Action dated May 17, 2002, a copy of which is included herewith:

In response to the Office Action of May 17, 2002, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 14 of the above-referenced application as follows:

A
--1. (Amended) An optical ferrule comprising a ferrule body; wherein a concave portion in which a gate for resin molding is disposed is formed in said ferrule body, and a depth of said concave portion is deeper than a height of a flash which is formed in said concave portion as a result of said resin molding.

2. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 1, wherein an optical fiber insertion opening portion for inserting an optical fiber, an optical fiber insertion hole for inserting an end of said optical fiber which is inserted in said optical fiber insertion opening portion, and a guide pin hole for inserting a guide pin for guiding said ferrule body to a proper position, are formed in said ferrule body so as to position said optical fiber insertion hole in a tip end portion thereof.

3. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 2, wherein a flange portion protruding from an external periphery surface of said ferrule body to an

outside is provided in a rear end portion of said ferrule body opposite to said tip end portion, and said concave portion is formed in an external surface of said flange portion.

4. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 3, wherein said flange portion has a rectangular shape when viewed from said rear end portion, and said concave portion is formed in at least one of right and left side surfaces of the external periphery surface of said flange portion.

5. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 4, wherein said concave portion is formed so as to extend from said side surface to a rear end corner of said rear end portion.

7. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 4, wherein said concave portion is formed between both corner portions of said side surface which extend along an insertion direction of said optical fiber.

8. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 4, wherein said concave portion is formed in a groove shape extending over a whole length of said flange portion along an insertion direction of said optical fiber.

9. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 3, wherein said flange portion has a rectangular shape when viewed from said rear end portion, and said concave portion is formed in at least one of upper and lower side surfaces of the external periphery surface of said flange portion.

10. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 9, wherein said concave portion is formed in a groove shape extending over a whole length of said flange portion along an insertion direction of said optical fiber.

11. (Amended) An optical ferrule comprising a ferrule body, wherein a concave portion for confirming confirmation factors such as a material of said ferrule body or sorts of an optical fiber held in said ferrule body is formed.

12. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 11, wherein said concave portion is formed in a flange portion of said ferrule body, and a gate for resin molding is disposed in said concave portion.

13. (Amended) The optical ferrule according to claim 11, wherein said concave portion is formed at a portion other than a flange portion of said ferrule body.

14. (Amended) An optical connector using the optical ferrule according to claim 1. --

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to our Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

REMARKS